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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 9:02 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: Loss report for squirrel in Sacramento County
Attachments: P2768.pdf

Hi Norman,

A new brodifacoum incident from California.

Bob

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 6:45 PM
To: agcomm@saccounty.net; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Kratville, David@CDFA; Miller, Robert
Subject: Loss report for squirrel in Sacramento County

Hello, Please find attached a loss report for a squirrel in Sacramento County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Stella

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Office 916-358-2954
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2768
CAHFS D1403231
Necropsy N14-090

Date of loss: March 8, 2014
Species: Western gray squirrel *Sciurus griseus*
Listing status: No special status

To: Juli Jensen,
Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: April 17, 2014

Remarks

Investigation into cause of unusual number of squirrel deaths in backyard in Sacramento.

Background

On March 8, 2014, USDA Wildlife Services was notified by a resident of Sacramento that she had observed an unusual number of dead squirrels in her small backyard over the last two months. Wildlife Services referred the inquiry to DFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory and the resident delivered a squirrel for testing. The squirrel was very degraded and was a poor candidate for necropsy so the liver was removed at the Wildlife Investigations Laboratory and submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for anticoagulant rodenticide analysis.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The only anticoagulant rodenticide detected in the liver was brodifacoum at 4.2 ppm. A definitive diagnosis of anticoagulant toxicosis requires both the presence of the anticoagulant in appropriate body tissue (such as liver) and signs of coagulopathy. This squirrel was too degraded to determine if signs of coagulopathy were present. However, 4.2 ppm is in the range of concentrations found in livers of rodents and other mammals that had been administered a lethal dose of brodifacoum (Erickson and Urban 2004). It is likely that this squirrel died from brodifacoum toxicosis.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin

Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve C. Torres".

**Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration**

**Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration**

**David Kratville,
CDFA**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**